

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-43 are pending in the application. Claims 1-25 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and new Claims 26-43 are added by the presented amendment. Support for new Claims 26-43 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ Thus, no new matter is presented.

The undersigned appreciatively acknowledges the courtesy extended by Examiner Wallerson by holding a personal interview with the undersigned on September 21, 2005. During the interview, a description of the invention was provided in light of the applied reference and a proposed claim was presented that Examiner Wallerson agreed recited features not disclosed in the applied reference. This agreed upon claim language is incorporated in the new claims presented herein, as discussed below.

Initially, in the outstanding Official Action, Claim 1 was objected to because of a minor informality; Claims 1-11 and 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; and Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Doi (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,712, hereinafter "Doi").

In view of the cancellation of Claims 1-25, the above-noted objection/rejections are rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that these objection/rejections be withdrawn.

The summary of the September 21, 2005 interview indicates that an agreement was reached and states

Applicant proposed new independent claims which set forth a first program within the platform of the multifunctional device, configured to receive processing instructions from a

¹ Specification, e.g., Figs. 3 and 5-8.

plurality of applications and a second program within the platform configured to receive a processing instruction from the plurality of applications, wherein the first and second programs are shared by the plurality of applications. The Examiner does not believe that the cited reference discloses this feature...

New Claim 25 recites, *inter alia*, an image processing apparatus, comprising:

...a first program, within a platform, configured to receive a processing instruction from any of the plurality of applications...

a second program, within the platform, different from the first program, configured to receive a processing instruction from any of the plurality of applications...

wherein the first and second programs are shared by the plurality of applications.

It should be noted that in an exemplary, non-limiting embodiment, the first and second programs generally correspond to the control services, as depicted in Fig. 3, for example. However, the term “platform” may also correspond to a Java Controller or any other similar collection of software. “The plurality of applications” recited in the claims requires there to be at least two applications. However, it is possible for there to be additional applications within the image processing apparatus which are not a part of “the plurality of applications”

As discussed during the interview, and agreed to by Examiner Wallerson, Doi fails to teach or suggest the above-noted features recited in new Claim 25. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that new Claim 1 patentably defines over the applied reference. Further, as new Claims 27-32 depend from new Claim 25, it is also submitted that these claims also patentably define over Doi.

New independent Claims 33 and 39 are also presented, which recite substantially the same subject matter recited in new Claim 25, but are directed to alternative statutory classes. Accordingly, for substantially the same reasons as provided above with respect to new Claim 25, it is submitted that new independent Claims 33 and 39 also patentably define over Doi. Also, as new Claims 34-38 and 40-43 depend from new independent Claims 33 and 39,

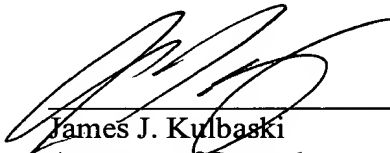
respectively, it is also submitted that these claims patentably define over the applied reference.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 26-43 is patentably distinguishing over the applied reference. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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